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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **DRUG DEALERS NEAR CLOVIS WEST HIGH SCHOOL SENTENCED**

FRESNO—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that GABRIEL JEDIDIAH SCHOENSTEIN, 32, and MICHELLE KEVORKIAN, 37, both of Fresno, have been sentenced in federal court for their involvement in a marijuana drug operation from their residence near Clovis West High School and Fort Washington Elementary School.

Senior United States District Judge Oliver W. Wanger sentenced SCHOENSTEIN today to 12 months and one day in federal prison after SCHOENSTEIN admitted to possessing with intent to distribute 36 kilograms, or 79 pounds of marijuana, from a residence where he lived with his girlfriend, KEVORKIAN. That residence was located within 1,000 feet of Clovis West High School and walking distance to Fort Washington Elementary School. It is a federal crime to distribute or possess with intent to distribute drugs within 1,000 feet of a secondary school. SCHOENSTEIN will serve at least 85 percent of his term. Upon release, he will be under federal supervision for 36 months. KEVORKIAN was sentenced on November 19, 2007, to 24 months of probation, after admitting to possessing about three pounds of marijuana at her residence. She also admitted that her residence was used to facilitate drug trafficking crimes; consequently, the residence was ordered forfeited.

The defendants' involvement in drug trafficking was uncovered during a federally funded Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) investigation of OSCAR ROSALES, 41, of Fresno, the owner of a stereo/direct tv business, Exclusive Sounds, at 4376 W. Shaw Avenue, by the

Fresno Methamphetamine Task Force (FMTF) of the Central Valley's High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Initiative (HIDTA). The FMTF consists of multiple federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, including the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), California Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement (BNE), Fresno County Sheriff's Department, Fresno Police Department, Madera County Sheriff's Department, Merced County Sheriff's Department, and California Highway Patrol and assisted by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). On August 28, 2007, Judge Wanger sentenced ROSALES to 14 years in federal prison for conspiring to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute throughout the country at least 1,000 kilograms of marijuana.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Karen A. Escobar, who prosecuted the case, SCHOENSTEIN possessed with intent to distribute about 79 pounds of marijuana over a seven-month period from February to August, 2005, while he resided with KEVORKIAN at her residence. During that time, SCHOENSTEIN sold pound quantities of marijuana to ROSALES at Exclusive Sounds. His suppliers included DAVID LEE CROSSLEY, 35, of Fresno, who obtained marijuana from cultivators in Mendocino County. CROSSLEY was sentenced to 13 months in prison on May 2, 2007, for conspiring to manufacture or cultivate, to distribute, and to possess with intent to distribute. In addition, SCHOENSTEIN obtained high grade marijuana from WILLIAM WHITE, 35, of North Fork, who was sentenced to 84 months in prison on July 6, 2007, for conspiracy to manufacture, to distribute, and to possess with intent to distribute marijuana.

During a court-authorized search of SCHOENSTEIN and KEVORKIAN's residence on August 30, 2005, narcotics agents seized not only marijuana but about one pound of cocaine and small quantities of psychedelic mushrooms and hashish, forcing officials at Clovis West High School and Fort Washington Elementary School to temporarily shut the schools down.

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